

They really are two historic districts within the 13th Congressional District. Today, we mark a new day for those two communities with regard to transit access.

This week, President Biden announced and submitted to Congress a strong and visionary budget. It included \$4.5 billion for the Capital Investment Grant program, which includes \$400 million for the construction of the second phase of the Second Avenue subway extension.

The first phase was completed not too long ago, several years ago, and it went from 96th Street south to 72nd Street, touching some of the most affluent ZIP Codes in the country.

This phase, the second phase, will go north to 125th Street. Some people have categorized it and called it Uptown Grand Central. It would connect East Harlem, El Barrio, and Harlem at 125th Street to the rest of the world.

These stops will connect a transportation desert where over 75 percent of its residents use public transportation to the Lexington Avenue line, which is the most overcrowded subway line in the city, if not the country.

East Harlem, as I said earlier, is currently a transportation desert, and this second phase will change the lives of over 100,000 New Yorkers who will use it on a daily basis.

This phase will extend train services to 96th Street and 125th Street, a 2-mile stretch, and benefit thousands upon thousands of New Yorkers. But it would also connect to Metro-North, a total of 124 stations in seven different counties in upstate New York, suburban New York, as well as Connecticut. As such, it will also connect folks to LaGuardia Airport via bus and future water transportation in the Hudson River and Harlem River.

This is truly a regional project that will connect Harlem and East Harlem, El Barrio, to the rest of the world.

I am happy and proud that President Biden included \$400 million for the second phase of the Second Avenue subway.

The first phase saw 160,000 people benefit on a regular basis, \$842 million in wages, and \$2.87 billion in economic activity in that region.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to see this new initiative.

I thank President Biden for bringing the second phase of the Second Avenue Subway to the 13th Congressional District.

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SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States takes an oath, promising to faithfully execute the office that he holds. That is a promise to uphold and defend the laws of this country and to protect our Na-

tion's citizens. But President Biden seems determined to violate that oath when it comes to enforcing our immigration and asylum laws.

There is an undeniable crisis at our southern border, and it is a direct result of President Biden's halting of the construction of the border wall, ending the remain-in-Mexico policy and re-implementing catch and release.

Now, instead of taking steps to rectify the situation that he has created, President Biden is preparing to pour fuel on the fire by lifting Title 42. Title 42 is essential to ensuring the immediate expulsion of illegal aliens. And officials within the President's own Department of Homeland Security are sounding the alarm. Officials have said that if this policy is revoked, it would cause a massive run on the border, even worse than we are seeing right now, resulting in upwards of 18,000 illegal crossings a day. That is 6.5 million illegal immigrants crossing every year.

State and local governments, especially school districts across the country, are being overwhelmed. Customs and Border Protection can barely keep up as it is, let alone with that kind of surge. President Biden is failing the American people and his neglect at the border is having catastrophic consequences.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about Social Security and its importance to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, everybody is alarmed by the fact that we have been dealing with a global pandemic. That global pandemic, commonly referred to as COVID, has taken close to a million lives in the United States of America. Over 700,000 of those lives are individuals over the age of 65.

The COVID pandemic has also turned the economy upside down and has led to a period of inflation. And during that period, the group that is impacted the most as well as seniors in America. It is people that are on fixed incomes that need our help directly.

There are more than 10,000 baby boomers a day who become eligible for Social Security. And for about 40 percent of senior beneficiaries, Social Security provides the majority of their income. And for one in six Americans, it provides more than 90 percent of their income. And yet, shamefully, the United States Congress has not taken action on this in more than 50 years.

Today, and every day, you can hear Members come to the floor and talk about their concern for our constitu-

ents; most notably, the elderly and even more poignantly, the veterans. More veterans rely on Social Security disability than they do on the VA. And yet, Congress has not addressed this issue in more than 50 years. The last time Congress addressed this issue, milk was 72 cents a gallon. Everybody knows that those prices have become so high today that it causes seniors to have to put food back on the grocery shelves because they can't afford it. This is especially true for people of color.

Mr. Speaker, I commend our former leader, John Lewis, who pointed out and said that Social Security is the next Civil Rights Movement because of the discrimination that is taking place within Social Security. And because also, people have come to rely on it because it is a guarantee.

We don't have to go back to 1929 and the great crash. We only have to go back as far as 2008 and 2009 to look at what happened in that recession and find out that people's 401(k) became a 101(k). And yet, during that same time period, Social Security never missed a payment—not a pension payment, not a spousal payment, not a dependent coverage payment, and not a disability payment.

This is not something the President can do by executive order, nor is it anything that the Supreme Court is going to adjudicate. This is the responsibility of the United States Congress, and help is on the way. People are going to have an opportunity to vote on Social Security 2100, bringing Social Security into this century and then also rectifying the discrimination that has taken place.

Recent polls show this: That 64 percent of Black adults say securing Social Security should be the top priority for the President and Congress to address this year. Martin Luther King had a better way of saying it. He called it the "fierce urgency of now."

In the midst of this pandemic, remember this, my colleagues on both sides of the aisle: These are your brothers and sisters. These are your parents. These are your aunts and uncles. These are your co-workers. These are people you worship with.

Over 5 million Americans get below-poverty level checks from Social Security. Why? Because Congress hasn't taken on its responsibility and stepped up to the plate and done what is expected of them.

I commend JIM CLYBURN, our leader here, who has come out strongly in favor of making sure that we address this inequality.

RECOGNIZING ODESSA AND MIDLAND CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Odessa and Midland Chambers of Commerce during